

**Security Council**

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Identical letters dated 8 October 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 6 October 2001 from Mr. Naji Sabri, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to the ongoing wanton aggression against Iraq by United States and British aircraft in the unlawful no-flight zones and to the fact that in the period from 19 to 30 September 2001 they carried out 216 hostile sorties, 93 of them from Saudi Arabia, 37 from Kuwait and 86 from Turkey, as shown in the statement enclosed with the letter. On 20 September such aircraft fired missiles at an Iraqi site in the Basrah area; on 21 September they bombed two sites in Maysan and Dhi Qar governorates; and on 27 September they fired missiles at two Iraqi sites in Basrah governorate. One Iraqi was wounded in these attacks and many installations were destroyed.

The Minister reaffirms the Government of Iraq's condemnation of these acts of aggression against Iraqi territory, and he states that international responsibility for them must be borne by the United States of America, the United Kingdom and the countries that provide the logistic support for this aggression, namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey. He urges you to perform the duties assigned to you under the Charter by halting this unwarranted aggression and ensuring that it does not recur.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed A. Al-Douri
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



**Annex to the identical letters dated 8 October 2001 from the
Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the
Security Council**

I should like to inform you that United States and British warplanes based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey have continued to violate the airspace of the Republic of Iraq. They flew 216 armed sorties in the period from 19 to 30 September 2001, 93 of them from Saudi Arabia, 37 from Kuwait and 86 from Turkey, as shown in the statement enclosed herewith. On 20 September such aircraft fired missiles at an Iraqi site in the Basrah area; on 21 September they bombed two Iraqi sites in Maysan and Dhi Qar governorates; and on 27 September they fired missiles at two Iraqi sites in Basrah governorate. One Iraqi was wounded in these attacks and many installations were destroyed.

The hostile terrorist action in which the United States of America and the United Kingdom have been engaged against Iraq since 1991 seeks to undermine the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, to inflict systematic and concerted destruction on Iraq and on its infrastructure and vital amenities and to kill its people. It is a policy that is being affirmed in successive statements made by United States and British officials.

Most of the world's countries, including the Arab countries, have condemned the maintenance of the no-flight zones as representing an illegitimate use of force against an independent State. Three countries that are permanent members of the Security Council, namely the Russian Federation, China and France, have stressed the fact that the enforcement of the no-flight zones in northern and southern Iraq has no basis in any principle of international law. Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the former Secretary-General, has stated that the claim made by the United States that Security Council resolution 688 (1991) authorizes the imposition of the no-flight zones is groundless. At his press conference of 27 June 2001, Mr. Kofi A. Annan also said that there was no basis in the resolutions of the Security Council for the imposition of the no-flight zones in northern and southern Iraq. His actual words were (SG/SM/7865):

"You know my position on this, and I have indicated that when you analyse and read the Security Council resolutions I do not see the Security Council resolutions as a basis for that."

The Government of Iraq categorically rejects the two so-called no-flight zones, which were imposed by unilateral decision of the United States and the United Kingdom and lack any legal basis. Iraq rejects all the flimsy excuses and pretexts stemming from this illegal decision that are used by these States in engaging in this hostile terrorist action in an attempt on their part to justify their military aggression against our country.

The logistic support made available by the governments of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the United States and the United Kingdom, which includes the provision of air bases, has made them key partners in the terrorist aggression against Iraq, so that they bear international responsibility under international law. This includes liability for full compensation for the loss and damage, in both human and material terms, that is caused by these illegal practices.

The Government of Iraq further renews its appeal to the countries participating in this terrorist aggression to desist forthwith from internationally prohibited terrorist acts that violate Iraq's sovereignty and place its security and integrity in grave danger and that pose a direct and serious threat to international peace and security.

As it condemns these hostile terrorist acts against Iraqi residential areas and civilian and military installations, the Government of Iraq urges you, given that you have stated that there is no basis in the resolutions of the Security Council for the imposition of the no-flight zones, to perform the duties assigned to you as they relate to the maintenance of international peace and security, to call upon the governments of the countries in question to halt, end and desist from any resumption of this terrorist aggression against Iraq — an independent, sovereign State and a founding Member of the United Nations — and to charge those committing the aggression and the regional parties that have associated themselves with it, namely Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Turkey, with full legal responsibility for their persistence in this crime.

(Signed) Naji Sabri
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Enclosure

Violations of the airspace of the Republic of Iraq by United States and British warplanes, 19-30 September 2001

1. In the northern region 86 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1315 hours on 19 September 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from a base in Turkey and from Turkish airspace penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 14 armed sorties, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Zakho, Amadiyah, Baibo, Aqrah, Dohuk, Irbil and Rawanduz areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1545 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1230 hours on 20 September 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from bases in Turkey and from Turkish airspace penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 16 armed sorties, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Irbil, Mosul, Aqrah, Rawanduz and Amadiyah areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1510 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1400 hours on 21 September 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from bases in Turkey and from Turkish airspace penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 10 armed sorties, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Amadiyah, Zakho, Baibo, Aqrah, Dohuk, Irbil and Ayn Zalah areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1635 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1400 hours on 24 September 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15 and F-16 aircraft coming from bases in Turkey and from Turkish airspace penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 14 armed sorties, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Zakho, Amadiyah, Dohuk, Aqrah, Ayn Zalah, Baibo and Irbil areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1620 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 1258 hours on 25 September 2001, United States and British F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from bases in Turkey and from Turkish airspace penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 14 armed sorties, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Zakho, Dohuk, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Irbil, Ayn Zalah and Dokan areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1530 hours, drove them off.

(f) At 1530 hours on 26 September 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from bases in Turkey and from Turkish airspace penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 18 armed sorties, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Zakho, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Dohuk and Irbil areas.

Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1730 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region 130 armed sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1555 hours on 19 September 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and from Kuwaiti and Saudi airspace and territorial waters penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 19 armed sorties, 16 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and three from Kuwaiti territory and by way of the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Samawah, Shatrah, Rifa'i, Basrah, Salman, Ashbajah and Lasaf areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1735 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1435 hours on 20 September 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and from Saudi and Kuwaiti airspace and territorial waters penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 17 armed sorties, 10 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and seven from Kuwaiti territory and by way of the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Jalibah, Busayyah, Lasaf, Salman and Rifa'i areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1650 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1245 hours on 21 September 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and from Saudi and Kuwaiti airspace and territorial waters penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 20 armed sorties, 11 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and nine from Kuwaiti territory and by way of the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Amghar, Lasaf, Salman, Jalibah, Busayyah, Nasiriyah, Amarah and Qal'at Sukkar areas. The United States and British aircraft fired missiles at military units in Maysan and Dhi Qar governorates. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1445 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1125 hours on 22 September 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and from Kuwaiti and Saudi airspace and territorial waters penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 10 armed sorties from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and overflew the Salman, Busayyah and Ashbajah areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1230 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 1110 hours on 25 September 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and from Kuwaiti and Saudi airspace and territorial waters penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 18 armed sorties, 16 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and two from Kuwaiti territory and by way of the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Samawah, Salman, Artawi, Ashbajah, Jalibah and Lasaf areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1330 hours, drove them off.

(f) At 1305 hours on 27 September 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and from Kuwaiti and Saudi airspace and territorial waters penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 25 armed sorties, 16 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and nine from Kuwaiti territory and by way of the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nukhayb, Busayyah, Nasiriyah, Ma'aniyah, Jalibah, Salman, Shatrah, Artawi, Basrah, Qurnah, Ashbajah, Shinafiyah and Amghar areas. The United States and British aircraft fired missiles at military units in Basrah governorate, wounding one Iraqi and destroying many civilian installations. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1530 hours, drove them off.

(g) At 1435 hours on 30 September 2001, United States and British F-14 and F-15 aircraft coming from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and from Kuwaiti and Saudi airspace and territorial waters penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 21 armed sorties, 14 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and seven from Kuwaiti territory and by way of the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Lasaf, Ma'aniyah, Ashbajah, Busayyah, Salman, Basrah, Jalibah and Nasiriyah areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1610 hours, drove them off.
